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calculated by my formula, in its complete and less perfect form, from the observed temperatures of a wet and dry thermometer.

(Top of Sugar-loaf, April 23, 1840.)

$$t = 60^{\circ}8; \quad t' = 53^{\circ}2; \quad t - t' = 7^{\circ}6; \quad p = 28.516.$$

$$t'' \text{ (by Daniell's hygrometer) } = 47.5.$$

$$t'' \left( \text{by formula } f'' = f' - .0114(t - t') \times \frac{p - f'}{30} \right) = 46^{\circ}8.$$

$$t'' \text{ (by formula } f'' = f' - .0114(t - t') \text{) } = 46^{\circ}22.$$

“Thus, by neglecting the factor  $\frac{p - f'}{30}$ , which, in the preceding observation, = .9366, the calculated dew-point comes out  $0^{\circ}58$  too low. This, however, may, under ordinary circumstances, be considered as an extreme error; for  $t - t'$  is seldom so high as  $7.6$ , and  $\frac{p - f'}{30}$  scarcely ever so low as .9366, at least in this climate.”

May 25.

REV. H. LLOYD, A. M., Vice-President, in the Chair.

A paper was read by the Secretary, being a continuation of Mr. George J. Knox's researches “on the Direction and Mode of Propagation of the Electric Force, and on the Source of Electrical Development.”

In the commencement of this paper the Author describes some experiments, from which he concludes that *all fluids* convey the electric force through their substance; while with regard to *solids* no regular law exists, some conveying the electric force through their substance, while others convey it along their surface. He next considers the source of electrical development, and shows that it must originate in

*contact*, and not in chemical action, by a reference to experiments which prove that there is development of electricity by contact where chemical action could not take place, (as in the case of gold and platinum,) and by showing that all the experiments adduced in favour of chemical action, receive an easy solution on the contact theory. He then shows how completely the electrical machine illustrates every anomalous action in the voltaic pile, when the contact theory, and his explanation of chemical action by alternate states of induction and equilibrium, are adopted.

The Author then explains, (as a further proof of the correctness of his theory of alternate states of induction and equilibrium,) in what manner, according to this theory, a current of electricity must, at making and breaking contact, produce induced currents in opposite directions; and he concludes with a few remarks upon magnetism considered as an electrical phenomenon.

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The Rev. Dr. Todd announced to the Academy that the transcript of the Book of Lismore, borrowed some time ago by the Council from his Grace the Duke of Devonshire, was now completed; and he exhibited it, together with the original, to the meeting.

After some remarks on the beauty of the transcript, which was made by Mr. Eugene Curry, and the means taken to secure its accuracy, Dr. Todd proceeded to give some account of the original MS.; the circumstances under which it was discovered in the Castle of Lismore, in 1814; and its subsequent history. He showed that it received the name of "the Book of Lismore" merely because it happened to be found in that Castle, and that it had no connexion with the Church of Lismore, as the appellation of *Book of Lismore* would imply. It was written probably for some members of the Mac Carthy family, and was a sort of *Bibliotheca*, or collection of tracts on all such subjects as appeared

interesting in religion, legendary lore, and history, in the fourteenth century, at which period the book was most probably written.

After describing the various mutilations which the volume appears to have sustained, Dr. Todd proceeded to describe its contents, and to make some remarks on the sources of the different tracts contained in it. These are, *Lives of St. Patrick, St. Columkille, St. Bridget of Kildare, St. Senan of Scattery Island, St. Finnen of Clonard, and St. Finnhua of Brigown*, all in Irish of great purity and antiquity; the conquests of Charlemagne, taken from the celebrated romance of the middle ages, falsely attributed to Tilpin, or Turpin, Archbishop of Rheims; several legends, as the story of All-hallowtide, of Antichrist, of St. Canice of Aghaboe, of David and Solomon, of a Christian and a Jewish Child, of St. Comgal of Bangor; and the history of the Lombards, from the celebrated work of Paul Warnefrid. Of this latter tract, which is full of strange tales and legends, Dr. Todd read a short portion, in an English translation. The reading of the remainder of the paper was deferred to the next meeting of the Academy.

#### DONATIONS.

*Annales des Mines.* Par les Ingenieurs des Mines. Troisième Série. Tome VII.—X. Presented by the School of Mines.

*Journal of the Franklin Institute.* Vol. XXIV. for 1839. Presented by the Society.

*Asiatic Researches.* Vol. XIX., Part 2. Presented by the Asiatic Society of Calcutta.

*Flora Batava.* By Jan Kops. Presented by the Author.

*Fisher's Constantinople.* Presented by Rev. R. Walsh, LL.D., M.R.I.A.